Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for purifying a composition comprising (meth)acrylic acid, at least one impurity and water, wherein the composition has a water content in the range of about ~~0.55 to about 90~~ 10 to about 85% by weight, based on the composition, to form a purified phase comprising (meth)acrylic acid and at least one impurity, wherein, in the purified phase, the quantity of at least one impurity is less than about 7% by weight, based on (meth)acrylic acid in the purified phase, comprising a stage of the process which includes the following process steps:

a) (meth)acrylic acid is crystallized from the composition while forming a suspension comprising a mother liquor and (meth)acrylic acid crystals;

b) (meth)acrylic acid crystals are separated from the mother liquor;

c) at least a portion of the separated (meth)acrylic acid crystals is melted to form a melt; and

d) a portion of the melt is recycled to step a) or step b) and wherein the portion of melt which is not recycled is in the form of a separated (meth)acrylic acid.

2. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein, in step a), (meth)acrylic acid crystallizes at least in part to form a crystal with a crystal structure having a surface with at least one recess located on the surface, the crystal structure having an orthorhombic Bravais crystal lattice with an Ibam space group, crystallographic data a = about 9.952 Å, b = about 11.767 Å and c = about 6.206 Å.

3. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein, in step a), the mother liquor comprises at least about 60% by weight of (meth)acrylic acid and water, wherein the water concentration of the mother liquor is in the range of about 10 and about 90% by weight.

4. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the (meth)acrylic acid crystals are washed in the countercurrent of the recycled melt.

5. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the melt is purified in a separate purification process.

6. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the (meth)acrylic acid crystals from step b) are supplied at least in part to step a).

7. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the mother liquor separated in step b) is recycled at least in part to step a).

8. (Previously Presented) The process according to claim 1, wherein the process comprises at least two stages, which each comprise steps a) to d), wherein at least one of the following features (α1) to (α4) is fulfilled:

(α1) separate (meth)acrylic acid from a first stage of the process is supplied at least in part to a second stage of the process;

(α2) separate (meth)acrylic acid from a second stage of the process is supplied at least in part to a first stage of the process;

(α3) mother liquor from a first stage of the process is supplied at least in part to a second stage of the process; and

(α4) mother liquor from a second stage of the process is supplied at least in part to a first stage of the process.

Claims 9-10 (Cancelled)

Claims 11-18 (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

Claims 21-23 (Cancelled)